

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1122  
By Cobb

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend David Wright of Gallatin for his outstanding achievements as an acclaimed American artist.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should specially recognize those talented citizens of this State whose creative abilities find outlet and expression through art; and

WHEREAS, one such highly talented and creative Tennessean is David Wright, whose highly acclaimed art uniquely captures the scenic beauty of the area and its rich historical heritage; his depictions of rural country landscapes and memorable moments in American history have earned him countless awards and placements in prestigious museums and private collections; and

WHEREAS, born in Rosine, Kentucky, and raised in Middle Tennessee, Mr. Wright has been painting for more than forty years. Professionally trained and with advanced study in Europe, he now ranks among America's premier artists, and has been acknowledged in the Who's Who in American art; his scholarship and deep historical sensitivities are evident in his works on the American frontier, America's Civil War, hunters, settlers, and American Indians; and

WHEREAS, following an early career in commercial art, David Wright turned to full-time painting and was among the original artists associated with Gray Stone Press in Nashville; his limited edition collector prints, principally of landscapes, became popular, and by 1976, his specialty art on the American frontier began to receive national attention; and

WHEREAS, David Wright was soon commissioned to create six paintings for Nashville, *The Faces of Two Centuries*, which celebrated Nashville's bicentennial; in 1982, his painting of

an 18<sup>th</sup> century frontiersman was selected for the poster for the Fine Arts Pavilion at the World's Fair; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wright's paintings have been featured in television documentaries and as covers and illustrations for numerous books and magazines; an avid historian, he has written scholarly articles for various publications, as well as contributing chapters in well-known books on the American frontier; and

WHEREAS, David Wright appeared on television as an historical consultant in *Boone & Crockett: The Hunter-Heroes*, which has aired numerous times since 2001 on the History Channel; he was recently named Art Director for Native Suns Productions' high definition, award-winning film, *Daniel Boone and the Westward Movement*, for the Cumberland Gap National Park; and

WHEREAS, he also provided art direction for the Native Sun Productions' History Channel film, *First Invasion: The War of 1812*, for which he received a Primetime Emmy nomination; and

WHEREAS, David Wright's portrait of Confederate boy hero, Sam Davis, hangs in the Sam Davis Boyhood Home Museum in Smyrna, Tennessee; he has also completed a signature painting of Martin's Station for the Wilderness Road State Park's Visitor's Center at Ewing, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Wright's internationally recognized works hang in numerous collections, as well as in the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, and the Tennessee State Museum in Nashville; his commissioned painting for Cumberland Gap National Historical Park, titled *Gateway to the West: Daniel Boone Leading the Settlers Through the Cumberland Gap, 1775*, has been made into a breathtaking wall-sized mural, and is on display at the Cumberland Gap Visitor's Center; and

WHEREAS, a true patriot, David Wright served in Vietnam prior to the actual war as an advisor and artist, and went to the mountains, lived with one of the native tribesmen, and was made a "blood brother" of the tribe; he spent off-duty time flying gunner missions, and was one of fifteen people to receive a personal letter of appreciation from General William C. Westmoreland; and

WHEREAS, his professional and artistic accomplishments notwithstanding, David Wright is most grateful for the love and support of his beloved wife; they reside in Gallatin in a beautiful 18<sup>th</sup>-century style house situated over the ever-running falls of historic Asher's Creek, across from the ruins of an old gristmill; and

WHEREAS, this General Assembly finds it appropriate to pause in its deliberations to acknowledge and applaud David Wright for his dedication to the propagation of the arts in Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend David Wright for his meritorious service to the state of Tennessee as an artist of singular talent and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.